

072013Z SEP 07

FROM: HQ AFPC RANDOLPH AFB TX//DPSOOC//

TO: 8106

SUBJECT: AIRMAN BATTLE UNIFORM (ABU) WEAR POLICY

1. THIS MESSAGE IS A FOLLOW ON TO 072005Z FEB 07 ABU WEAR POLICY MESSAGE. POLICY CONTAINED IN THIS MESSAGE IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/FAQS ABOUT THE ABU ARE LOCATED ON THE AF PORTAL UNIFORM WEBSITE, [HTTPS://WWW.MY.AF.MIL](https://www.my.af.mil).

2. THE ABU WAS AUTHORIZED FOR WEAR BY ALL AF PERSONNEL AS OF NOV 06. THE ABU REPLACES BOTH THE TEMPERATE AND HOT WEATHER BDU AND THE DCU. THE ABU WILL BE ISSUED AT BASIC MILITARY TRAINING IN THE INITIAL ISSUE CLOTHING BAG AS OF OCT 07. CLOTHING ALLOWANCE INCREASES GO INTO EFFECT OCT 07. MANDATORY WEAR DATE FOR THE ABU IS NOV 2011. PHASE- OUT DATE FOR THE BDU/DCU WILL BE SAME. WEAR OF THE ABU OR BDU CANNOT BE MANDATED NOR PROHIBITED DURING THIS TRANSITION PERIOD.

3. ALL PERSONNEL ARE REMINDED THAT WE ARE IN A MULTI-YEAR TRANSITION FROM THE BDU/DCU TO THE ABU. FLEXIBILITY ON THE PART OF ALL PERSONNEL WILL ALLOW CONTINUED FOCUS ON OUTFITTING WARFIGHTERS, WHILE OTHER DISTRIBUTION PLAN DYNAMICS ARE PUT IN PLACE. THESE INCLUDE INITIAL ISSUE OF THE ABU TO BASIC MILITARY TRAINEES AND LIMITED AVAILABILITY IN AAFES OUTLETS.

4. BASIC ABU UNIFORM CONFIGURATION:

- A. ABU COAT (SHIRT)
- B. ABU TROUSER
- C. ABU PATROL CAP
- D. DESERT SAND COLORED T-SHIRT
- E. DESERT SAND COLORED RIGGER BELT
- F. SAGE GREEN BOOT SOCKS
- G. SAGE GREEN SUEDE BOOTS (DESERT TAN SUEDE BOOTS AUTHORIZED)

5. T-SHIRTS ARE CREW NECK. THE AUTHORIZED COLOR IS DESERT SAND (LIGHT TAN). THE FABRIC CAN BE 100% COTTON, POLY/COTTON BLEND, 100% POLYESTER OR SYNTHETIC, OR MOISTURE WICKING BLENDS AT THE OPTION OF THE MEMBER. ANY MISSION OR DUTY SPECIFIC SAFETY REQUIREMENTS (SUCH AS 100% COTTON OR NATURAL FIBERS) TAKE PRIORITY. THE ABU T-SHIRT IS AUTHORIZED FOR WEAR WITH THE OD GREEN AND DESERT FLIGHT SUITS. THERE IS NO CHANGE TO THE AUTHORIZED BDU T-SHIRT COLORS OF BLACK OR BROWN. TURTLENECKS (DESERT SAND COLORED) ARE AUTHORIZED IN COLD WEATHER.

6. ABU SAGE GREEN BOOTS ARE AUTHORIZED FOR WEAR WITH ALL UTILITY UNIFORMS - ABU, BDU, DCU, OLIVE DRAB (OD) GREEN FLIGHT SUIT AND DESERT TAN FLIGHT SUIT. DESERT TAN BOOTS ARE ALSO AUTHORIZED FOR WEAR WITH THE ABU, UNTIL THE MANDATORY WEAR DATE OF NOV 2011. SOCK COLOR FOR THE ABU BOOT IS SAGE GREEN, OR ANY COLOR AUTHORIZED WITH NON-ABU UTILITY UNIFORM. CERTIFIED SAFE-TO-FLY BOOTS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN OCT 07.

7. ABU PATROL CAPS ARE THE AUTHORIZED HEADGEAR FOR WEAR WITH THE ABU OUTSIDE OF THE AOR. ORGANIZATIONAL CAPS ARE NO LONGER AUTHORIZED.

8. ABU RANK AND BADGES, NAME AND US AIR FORCE TAPES CAN BE PURCHASED AT MILITARY CLOTHING SALES STORES. NAME AND "U.S. AIR FORCE" TAPES CAN BE ORDERED AND PURCHASED. THREAD COLOR FOR SEWING ON RANK AND INSIGNIA SHOULD BE IN THE SAME SHADE RANGE AS THE ABU FABRICS. RANK PLACEMENT ON ABU IDENTICAL TO BDU/DCU. SUBDUED METAL RANK ONLY AUTHORIZED FOR OFFICERS ON ABU, INCLUDING HATS AND APECS OUTERGARMENTS. SEWN ON CLOTH RANK AUTHORIZED FOR ALL.

9. ENLISTED RANK SHOULD BE POSITIONED AS PER AFI 36-2903. IF CREASE ON SLEEVE IS NOT CONSISTENT WITH CORRECT RANK PLACEMENT, IRONING OF THE SLEEVES TO "MOVE" THE CREASE IS AUTHORIZED. ABU SLEEVES MAY BE ROLLED UP AS PER TABLE 2.2 OF AFI 36-2903, THE SAME AS THE BDU/DCU SLEEVES.

10. TROUSERS WILL BE BLOUSED AS PER TABLE 2.2, LINE 2 OF AFI 36-2903, IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE BDU. IF TUCKED IN, TROUSERS WILL PRESENT A BLOUSED APPEARANCE.

11. AERONAUTICAL, CHAPLAIN, AND OCCUPATIONAL BADGES AND REQUIRED DUTY SHIELDS ARE AUTHORIZED. OCCUPATIONAL BADGES ARE OPTIONAL. OTHER BADGES ARE NOT AUTHORIZED. AFI 36-2903, TABLE 5.2, NOTE 5, APPLIES TO THE ABU: A MAXIMUM OF THREE BADGES CAN BE WORN, WITH A MAXIMUM OF TWO ABOVE THE US AIR FORCE TAPE ON THE LEFT SIDE. A THIRD BADGE MAY BE WORN IF AUTHORIZED FOR PLACEMENT ON THE LEFT BREAST POCKET. THERE IS NO BADGE, PATCH OR INSIGNIA AUTHORIZED FOR WEAR ON THE RIGHT POCKET.

12. NO PATCHES ARE AUTHORIZED ON THE ABU. COMMAND INSIGNIA IS NOT AUTHORIZED ON THE ABU.

13. SHADE VARIATIONS BETWEEN THE ABU COAT AND TROUSERS DO EXIST IN SOME INVENTORIES, THESE ARE AUTHORIZED FOR WEAR. SHADE VARIATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO BE SOLVED WITHIN A YEAR.

14. OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES SUCH AS BACKPACKS, BRIEFCASES, HYDRATION SYSTEMS, AND GYM BAGS: CONTINUE TO USE BLACK, OD, OR AF SAGE GREEN. ABU PATTERN ITEMS AUTHORIZED AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE. WHEN QUESTIONS ARISE, LOCAL COMMAND INTERPRETATION TAKES PRECEDENT.

15. TRAVEL IN ABU FOLLOWS THE SAME GUIDELINES LISTED IN AFI 36-2903 FOR TRAVEL IN DCUS. ABU WEAR FOR COMMERCIAL TRAVEL IS ONLY AUTHORIZED WHEN TRAVEL IS CONTINUOUS FROM HOME TO AOR, OR FROM AOR TO HOME. SISTER SERVICE POLICIES ARE NOT APPLICABLE TO THE AIR FORCE.

16. ALL-PURPOSE ENVIRONMENTAL CLOTHING SYSTEM (APECS) JACKETS REPLACE THE BDU DCU GORE-TEX (R) JACKETS. PHASE OUT DATES FOR THESE ITEMS IS NOV 2011. MIXING AND MATCHING OF PATTERNS IS NOT AUTHORIZED, SEE PARAGRAPH 19 FOR EXCEPTIONS. GORE-TEX(R) JACKET RANK INSIGNIA (BDU RANK FOBS) ARE AUTHORIZED UNTIL ABU RANK IS WIDELY AVAILABLE. OFFICERS CAN WEAR SUBDUED PIN-ON RANK ON THE APECS. FLEECE LINERS ARE AUTHORIZED AS LINERS ONLY (NOT FOR OUTERWEAR), AND CAN BE BLACK OR SAGE GREEN.

17. GLOVES CAN BE BLACK OR SAGE GREEN. MATERIAL CAN BE LEATHER, SUEDE OR KNIT. WATCH CAPS CAN BE BLACK OR SAGE GREEN. BLACK SCARVES ARE AUTHORIZED WITH THE APECS, AND MUST BE TUCKED IN. BLACK EARMUFFS AUTHORIZED. WHEN CONDITIONS DICTATE, THERMAL UNDERWEAR CAN BE WORN AND BE EXPOSED AT THE NECK OF THE ABU. WHITE, CREAM OR DESERT SAND COLORED THERMAL UNDERWEAR IS AUTHORIZED.

18. DO NOT STARCH OR HOT PRESS THE ABU. THE ABU IS A COTTON/NYLON BLEND FABRIC, REPEATED HOT PRESSING OR HEAVY IRONING WILL ACCELERATE THE OVERALL WEAR OF THE FABRIC. THE ABU SHOULD BE WASHED IN DETERGENT THAT DOES NOT CONTAIN OPTICAL BRIGHTENERS, OR THE NEAR INFRARED PROTECTION MAY BE DIMINISHED. A PARTIAL LISTING OF DETERGENTS THAT DO NOT CONTAIN OPTICAL BRIGHTENERS IS AVAILABLE ON THE AF PORTAL UNIFORM WEBSITE. CARE INSTRUCTIONS ARE ON THE LABEL OF THE ABU.

19. THE ABUS PURCHASED BY AF PERSONNEL THROUGH AAFES MILITARY CLOTHING SALES STORES, OR ISSUED THROUGH IEE OR CONTRACT EQUIVALENT, ARE CERTIFIED AS FULLY COMPLIANT WITH ALL SPECIFICATIONS. NO OTHER SUPPLIERS ARE APPROVED FOR ORGANIZATIONAL/UNIT PURCHASES, OR ANY APPROPRIATED OR GWOT FUNDS EXPENDITURES. IF PERSONNEL CHOOSE TO USE PERSONAL FUNDS TO PURCHASE FROM NON-AAFES SUPPLIERS, THE AIR FORCE IS NOT RESPONSIBLE IF THE UNIFORM IS NOT FULLY COMPLIANT.

20. MIXING AND MATCHING CAMOUFLAGE PATTERNS, SPECIFICALLY ABU, DCU, OR BDU CAMOUFLAGE PATTERNS IS AUTHORIZED IN THE AOR. THIS APPLIES TO OUTERGARMENTS AND TACTICAL ITEMS ONLY (UTILITY UNIFORM COAT AND TROUSERS MUST MATCH). DEPLOYING PERSONNEL MAY WEAR BDU OR DCU GORE-TEX (R) JACKETS WHILE IN CONUS WITH ABUS WHILE PERFORMING CST TRAINING ONLY.

21. COMMANDERS WILL CONTINUE TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH UNIFORM SAFETY REGULATIONS. DURING THE TRANSITION TO THE ABU, ANY CONCERNS REGARDING SAFETY, SECURITY, OR MEDICAL COMPLIANCE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED THROUGH ORGANIZATIONAL CHAIN OF COMMAND TO ENSURE APPROPRIATE COORDINATION.

22. REQUESTS FOR EXCEPTION TO POLICY FOR ABU-RELATED UNIFORM POLICIES SHOULD BE ROUTED THROUGH YOUR MAJCOM A1 TO AF/A1DO. QUESTIONS REGARDING ABU WEAR POLICY SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE AFPC CALL CENTER, AT DSN 665-5000; COMMERCIAL (210) 565-5000; OR TOLL FREE, 1-800-616-3775, SELECT OPTIONS 1, 1, 2.

//SIGNED//

EARL V. MCCALLUM, JR., COLONEL, USAF  
CHIEF, SUSTAINMENT DIVISION  
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